



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/739,639	12/20/2000	Akio Goto	NEC-2130US	4751

7590 09/26/2002
McGuire Woods LLP
1750 Tysons Boulevard
Suite 1800
McLean, VA 22102

EXAMINER

WANG, GEORGE Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2882

DATE MAILED: 09/26/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/739,639	12/20/2000	Akio Goto	NEC-2130US	4751

7590 08/14/2002
Whitham, Curtis & Whitham
Reston International Center
11800 Sunrise Valley Dr., Suite 900
Reston, VA 20191

EXAMINER

WANG, GEORGE Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2882

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Nhu

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/739,639

Applicant(s)

GOTO, AKIO

Examiner

George Y. Wang

Art Unit

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) [] Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
2a) [] This action is FINAL. 2b) [x] This action is non-final.
3) [] Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) [x] Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) [] Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) [x] Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
7) [] Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) [] Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) [] The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) [x] The drawing(s) filed on 20 December 2000 is/are: a) [x] accepted or b) [] objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
11) [] The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) [] approved b) [] disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
12) [] The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) [x] Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) [x] All b) [] Some * c) [] None of:
1. [x] Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. [] Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. [] Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
14) [] Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) [] The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
15) [] Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) [x] Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) [] Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) [x] Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
4) [] Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
5) [] Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) [] Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasuyuki et al. (J.P. Pub. No. 10054917, from hereinafter "Yasuyuki") in view of Mitsuda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,350,064, from hereinafter "Mitsuda")

Yasuyuki discloses an optical waveguide module (fig. 1) in which transmitted signal light emitted from a laser light emitting element passes through a first optical waveguide (fig. 1, ref. 14) and a second optical waveguide (fig. 1, ref. 17) to strike a transmitting/receiving medium such as an optical fiber (fig. 1, ref. 18), and where the signal light from transmitting/receiving medium passes through second optical waveguide and is received by light-receiving element (fig. 1, ref. PD). Furthermore, the reference teaches a reflective, light-blocking plate (fig. 1, ref. 13), disposed above the first optical waveguide, which blocks transmitted signal light missing the light-emitting coupling part.

However, Yasuyuki fails to specifically teach a first light-blocking resin covering over the monitoring light-emitting element and first optical waveguide and a second

light-blocking resin covering part over the monitoring light receiving element and second optical waveguide. Furthermore, Ysaiyuki does not specifically disclose filling the coupling parts of the optical module with transparent resin.

Mitsuda discloses an optical waveguide module with an absorptive, light-blocking resin covering (fig. 1, ref. 22) over the monitoring light-receiving device (fig. 1, ref. 17).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included an absorptive, first light-blocking resin covering over the monitoring light-emitting element and first optical waveguide and a second absorptive, light-blocking resin covering part over the monitoring light receiving element and second optical waveguide since one would be motivated to improve optical light isolation (col. 9, ref. 21-27). It would have also been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to fill the coupled areas with transparent as well. Resins are well known in the art for fixative and light-blocking properties. Optical loss occurs when light strays, but with light-blocking resin to cover the monitoring light-emitting and receiving elements, one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that optical isolation and noise reduction would significantly be improved (col. 9, lines 27-39).

Conclusion


3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Y. Wang whose telephone number is 703-305-7242. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

Art Unit: 2882

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H. Kim can be reached on 703-305-3492. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

gw
August 12, 2002


ROBERT H. KIM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800